



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, Trempealeau NWR, Trempealeau, Wis



Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge - Pool #6, Trempealeau, Wisconsin.

Contact

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Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), the 5,620-acre Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge is located adjacent to the Mississippi River on the Wisconsin side at pool 6, approximately three miles above Lock and Dam 6 near Trempealeau, Wisconsin. A railroad embankment separates the Refuge from the main channel of the river. The role of the Refuge as a major feeding and resting area for migratory birds had been declining. Wetlands in the southern half of the Refuge were largely unproductive for wildlife because of turbid water conditions that limited aquatic plant growth. Wave action, rough fish, and low dissolved oxygen levels in the winter contributed to the water quality problem. In other areas of the Refuge, woody vegetation was expanding into wetland areas. The project constructed dikes to create three separate management pools. The 700-acre pool A has a pump station that is capable of drawing down the water level by three feet to establish and promote the growth of aquatic vegetation. Water levels can be increased up to four feet to control woody vegetation in the 220-acre pool C2 by using portable pumps or an inlet from the Trempealeau River. The water level can be increased two feet in the 550-acre pool E using portable pumps. Migratory bird habitat conditions were improved by the ability to directly manage water levels on 1,470 acres and maintain existing water levels on 2,000 acres. The dikes provide 13 acres of terrestrial habitat. Erosion is controlled at the existing Kieps Island by using an offshore

Status

A construction contract was awarded in September 1995 and completed in September 1999. Additional work to repair ice damages and other minor work will be performed in 2001. The large 700-acre pool was successfully drawn down and the 220-acre pool was flooded in the spring and summer of 2000. The drawdown is scheduled to be continued in 2001. The project was selected as one of the Seven Wonders of Engineering in Minnesota for 2001. A project dedication will be held after all the repair work is completed.

Authority

The Trempealeau NWR Habitat Project was constructed under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program (EMP) in accordance with a Definite Project Report dated January 1994. The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project was constructed as part of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 100 percent Federal because the project is located on national wildlife refuge lands. Operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent Federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal Cost	\$5,723,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Estimated Cost	\$5,723,000